



# First Grade Benchmarks

## Lower School Habits of Mind

- Engagement: Participates fully and collaboratively in school, community, and academic life.
- Integrity: Exhibits ethical behavior and honesty, providing service for the common good.
- Responsibility: Takes care of self, others, and the school as a learner, friend, advocate, and citizen.
- Reflection: Thinks constructively and critically, contemplating the learning and actions of self and others.
- Resilience: Demonstrates persistence while working through challenges.
- Flexibility: Questions the world from varying perspectives, adapting prior knowledge to generate new solutions.

## First Grade Speaking and Listening

- Speaks clearly and communicates effectively
- Uses appropriate tone, volume and language
- Makes statements on topic and asks questions that demonstrate relevant thinking
- Listens to and reflects back other's ideas
- Links comments to the remarks of others
- Participates in discussions and conversations appropriately (raises hand, doesn't interrupt, allows others to finish, uses air time appropriately)

## First Grade Science

- Observes and describes characteristics, basic needs and life cycles of living things (insects)
- Explores and identifies properties and uses of rocks, soil, water and/or air
- Explores and describes observable properties of physical science (light, heat, electricity, magnetism, and/or sound)
- Makes hypotheses from observations and information
- Seeks information through active investigation
- Understands, articulates and communicates scientific information with drawings, dictation, writing and/or numbers

## First Grade Mathematics

- Recognizes, counts and writes to 120 with one-to-one correspondence
- Counts by 2's, 5's and 10's to 120
- Understands place value of two digit numbers
- Fluently adds and subtracts within 10
- Mentally finds 10 more or 10 less within 100

- Identifies coin names and values
- Counts like coins and coin combinations within \$1.00
- Recognizes, describes and produces two and three dimensional shapes
- Tells time to hour and half-hour
- Uses calendar to determine day; reads and writes the date in a variety of ways
- Measures and estimates using a variety of tools
- Creates and solves word problems within 20 using objects, drawings, graphs and number sentences
- Demonstrates an understanding of key concepts when explaining mathematical thinking

## **First Grade Reading**

- Distinguishes long from short vowel sounds in spoken single-syllable words.
- Knows the spelling-sound correspondences for digraphs (th, wh, sh, ch)
- Knows final –e and common vowel team conventions for representing long vowel words
- Reads common grade level high-frequency words by sight (of, to, you, she, my, is, are, do, does)
- Knows and applies grade level phonics and word analysis skills when decoding words
- Uses words, illustrations and context clues to identify characters, setting and events
- Reads with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension
- Retells stories and demonstrates understanding of the main ideas
- Demonstrates an ability to use reading time for leisure, research and education
- Uses reading time productively, chooses reading materials independently, shares and enjoys favorite reading materials with others

## **First Grade Social Studies**

- Participates in creating classroom rules and works to follow them throughout the school year
- Participates in and takes responsibility for classroom jobs and school job
- Creates a map of a familiar place (includes the cardinal directions)
- Understands and appreciates different perspectives and interpretations
- Distinguishes fact from opinion in relation to social studies topics
- Demonstrates understanding of content and key concepts in current unit
- Formulates questions to direct learning in the current unit

## **First Grade Writing**

- Prints lower and upper case letters with appropriate directionality
- Uses letter sound knowledge to spell words
- Identifies and uses spelling patterns to spell words
- Spells grade level high frequency words correctly in daily writing
- Communicates ideas clearly in writing
- Uses elements of the writing process (brainstorms, drafts, revises, edits, publishes)
- Uses illustrations to match and enhance storyline
- Writes for a variety of purposes
- Writes a variety of pieces with clear topic, support and a sense of closure

## **First Grade Music**

- Singing: Sings alone and with others
- Pitch: Responds to and demonstrates the contour of simple melodies
- Rhythm & Meter: Identifies and performs rhythmic patterns and simple meters
- Form and Design: Demonstrates understanding of musical phrase in simple songs
- Playing: Performs simple accompaniments on unpitched and barred instruments
- Expressive Qualities: Explores and identifies expressive qualities of music
- Movement: Performs movement songs and simple folk dances with enthusiasm

## **First Grade Visual Art**

- Color: Understands and uses primary colors to make secondary colors
- Observation: Begins to use observation in creative process
- Creating: Engages in creative work in a self directed and collaborative way
- Expression: Discusses thoughts, feelings and experiences expressed in artwork; Begins to discuss and reflect with peers about artwork
- Connecting: Identifies and communicates work of art that connects to feelings, ideas and personal experiences
- Tools and media: Explores use of tools and media to create works of art; Uses art vocabulary to describe creative process

## **First Grade Spanish**

- Uses basic greetings and farewells
- Uses pictures, visuals and TPR (Total Physical Response) movements to infer meaning
- Responds accurately to yes/no questions
- Uses basic routine vocabulary, including days of the week, months of the year and weather
- Communicates on some familiar topics using single words
- Begins to demonstrate comprehension of simple sentences in the target language

## **First Grade Physical Education**

- Spatial awareness
- Balance
- Catching
- Throwing
- Kicking
- Locomotor: skip, jump, hop, gallop
- Working with Partners
- Working on a Team
- Self-management of conflict
- Encourage and respect others
- Accept responsibility for own actions
- Overall Attitude